

Personal Computing: Operating System

Definition(s):

The operating system (OS) is the basic control software necessary to run desktop computers. The OS controls most internal operations on a desktop computer. The OS includes communication protocols including the TCP/IP protocol that makes it possible to access the Internet for e-mail, file access/transport, resource sharing and business services. The OS also makes it possible to run desktop software that enables computers to be productive office tools.

Rationale:

Statewide identification, acceptance, conversion and use of a standard desktop OS are necessary for many fiscal, functional and practical reasons. A single standard simplifies training, support, knowledge transfer, cross-agency communication and collaboration. It improves and facilitates statewide network expansion. The adoption of a single OS standard offers the opportunity to negotiate enterprise volume purchase discounts and dramatically decreases the overall cost of ownership including technical support costs, upgrade costs, training and administration costs, transition expenses, and maintenance costs related to service pack issues and bug fixes.

Approved Standards:

A 32-bit or 64-bit OS with graphical user interface for Intel compatible platforms that supports the TCP/IP network protocol with multiple network services including remote access service.

Approved Products:

Currently supported version of Microsoft Windows

Guidelines/Technical Considerations:

Careful consideration should be given to the hardware platform when running Microsoft Windows. Although the OS will run within the minimum configuration established by the vendor, OIT recommends the minimum system configuration defined in [IT Std 6-01](#).

OIT approval is required for an OS other than Microsoft Windows. Entities must justify exceptions based on documented business or research needs and requirements.

Review Cycle:

As needed

Timeline:

Issued: February, 2002; December, 2011

Procurement:

Please use the following link for contract information "[Volume Pricing Agreements](#)".

Date: _____

Approved by: _____